

Philippine Stock Exchange index (PSEi)

5,741.07 ▼ 193.18 PTS. ▼ 3.25%

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2022
BusinessWorld

PSEi MEMBER STOCKS

AC Ayala Corp. P616.00 -P28.00 -4.35%	ACEN ACEN Corp. P5.60 -P0.10 -1.75%	AEV Aboitiz Equity Ventures, Inc. P53.65 -P3.25 -5.71%	AGI Alliance Global Group, Inc. P8.25 -P0.27 -3.17%	ALI Ayala Land, Inc. P22.85 -P0.25 -1.08%	AP Aboitiz Power Corp. P30.80 ---	BDO BDO Unibank, Inc. P111.50 -P2.60 -2.28%	BPI Bank of the Philippine Islands P89.50 -P0.50 -0.56%	CNVRG Converge ICT Solutions, Inc. P13.10 -P1.06 -7.49%	EMI Emperador, Inc. P19.24 -P0.20 -1.03%
GLO Globe Telecom, Inc. P2,030.00 -P54.00 -2.59%	GTCAP GT Capital Holdings, Inc. P415.60 -P0.40 -0.10%	ICT International Container Terminal Services, Inc. P156.60 -P17.70 -10.15%	JFC Jollibee Foods Corp. P229.00 -P5.00 -2.14%	JGS JG Summit Holdings, Inc. P42.05 -P1.95 -4.43%	LTG LT Group, Inc. P8.26 -P0.09 -1.08%	MBT Metropolitan Bank & Trust Co. P48.50 -P0.30 -0.61%	MEG Megaworld Corp. P2.04 -P0.07 -3.32%	MER Manila Electric Co. P263.00 -P25.60 -8.87%	MONDE Monde Nissin Corp. P12.18 -P0.38 -3.03%
MPI Metro Pacific Investments Corp. P3.33 -P0.12 -3.48%	PGOLD Puregold Price Club, Inc. P28.25 -P1.25 -4.24%	RLC Robinsons Land Corp. P16.48 +P0.02 +0.12%	SCC Semirara Mining and Power Corp. P39.00 -P0.30 -0.76%	SM SM Investments Corp. P725.00 -P35.00 -4.61%	SMC San Miguel Corp. P97.95 -P0.05 -0.05%	SMPH SM Prime Holdings, Inc. P30.10 -P1.80 -5.64%	TEL PLDT, Inc. P1,508.00 -P1.00 -0.07%	URC Universal Robina Corp. P114.00 +P2.00 +1.79%	WLCON Wilcon Depot, Inc. P31.95 +P3.95 +14.11%

Nishimatsu-DMCI joint venture bags subway deal

THE government has awarded the contract for the construction of the Quezon Avenue and East Avenue stations as well as tunnels of the first phase of the Metro Manila subway project to a joint venture of Japanese and Philippine construction companies, the Transportation department said.

The joint venture of Japan's Nishimatsu Construction Co., Ltd. and the Philippines' D.M. Consunji, Inc. (Nishimatsu-DMCI JV) will design and build the two underground stations of the country's first subway sys-

tem, which is funded by a loan from Japan.

A notice of award was issued on Sept. 29 to Keiji Matsushita, the authorized representative of the Nishimatsu-DMCI JV, according to a copy of the document signed by Transportation Undersecretary Kim Robert C. de Leon.

The contract package has an estimated total price, inclusive of a 12% value-added tax, of P21.33 billion, with a breakdown as follows: P17.37 billion, \$31.77 million, €5.49 million, and ¥4.39 billion, the document showed.

This is still "subject to concurrence by the Japan International Cooperation Agency and compliance with the documentary requirements as provided under the guidelines for procurement under Japanese official development assistance loans (of) April 2012," Mr. De Leon said.

The project aims to meet Metro Manila's growing transportation demand and ease traffic in the capital region.

The first phase of the subway project traverses six cities and includes 13 underground stations and a train depot covering 28.8

hectares above ground, according to the Transportation department.

The line starts in Quezon City on Mindanao Avenue - Quirino Highway and ends in FTI, Taguig City, with a proposed depot in Brgy. Ugong, Valenzuela City.

The department recently announced that the northbound and southbound portions of Meralco Avenue in Pasig City will be closed starting Oct. 3 to pave the way for the construction of the Shaw Boulevard station of the subway project.

"The road closure takes effect until 2028 and will cover the front

section of Capitol Commons up to the corner of Shaw Boulevard," it said in a statement.

Meralco Avenue will serve as the subway project's access point to Shaw Boulevard station.

"Motorists are advised to take alternative routes to be provided by the Metro Manila Development Authority, Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board, and the city governments of Pasig and Mandaluyong," it added.

Public utility jeepneys from Meralco Avenue going to Shaw Boulevard will be "rerouted to

Captain Henry Javier Street and then to Danny Floro Street, and vice versa."

Modern jeepneys coming from Meralco Avenue to Shaw Boulevard will be rerouted to Doña Julia Vargas Avenue, then to San Miguel Avenue, and vice versa.

UV Express vehicles will also be rerouted to Doña Julia Vargas Avenue to San Miguel Avenue or Anda Road, then to Camino Verde.

All available routes are accessible to private vehicles, the department said. — **Arjay L. Balinbin**

Ninja Van Philippines sees strong growth in parcel deliveries

NINJA Van Philippines said it saw robust growth in parcel deliveries in the Philippines after it reached 100% service coverage, an official of the technology-enabled logistics company said.

"It is no secret that people are coming out again going to physical retail and buying goods straight from the store compared to pandemic where almost everything is online but definitely there is an upgrowth that we see in new markets and clients," Ninja Van Philippines Chief Operating Officer Jose Alvin Perez told *BusinessWorld* on Friday.

So far in 2022, Ninja Van saw its digital Filipino customers increase



by 8%, while the company processed two million parcels per day across its six markets in Southeast Asia. No specific figures were given for the Philippines alone.

Earlier this year, Ninja Van Philippines opened its 21,000-square meter fully automated hub in Cabuyao,

Laguna, its largest in Southeast Asia. With fully integrated measurement and sortation systems, its receiving and outbound capacities were boosted by 300% and 400%, respectively.

Mr. Perez said that the company also plans to replicate its Cabuyao automated hub in other parts of the country.

"We're going to load up this facility first [to] make it really fully utilized, get our bearings really highly efficient," he said, adding that the move could take a "few years down the line."

"These tech-driven innovations drive our mission to bring speedy deliveries and easy issue-resolution for our shippers, whose trust and partnership

enabled us to grow in the last six years," he added.

Mr. Perez said that Ninja Van is seeing more clients, which could help the company achieve the growth that it is projecting.

"A big chunk of the e-commerce activities still comes from China," he said, describing it as a big manufacturing hub from where "a lot of parcels, items that we see online actually originate."

"We see a lot of potential here, we see a lot of interesting volume coming in whether some of the Chinese businesses going here setting up shops or connecting with them straight from China," Mr. Perez said. — **Ashley Erika O. Jose**

House bill seeks franchise for Bicol power distributor to cut electricity rates

A BILL filed in the House of Representatives seeks to grant a legislative franchise to Bicol Light and Power Corp. to guarantee more affordable electricity to consumers in some parts of Camarines Sur.

House Bill 1084 will grant the company a franchise, which will allow it to establish, operate and maintain a power distribution system in Iriga City and the

towns of Baao, Balatan, Bato, Buhi, Bula, and Nabua.

It was filed by Camarines Sur representatives Luis Raymund "Lray" F. Villafuerte, Miguel Luis R. Villafuerte and Tsuyoshi Anthony G. Horibata, and Bicol Saro Party-list Rep. Nicolas C. Enciso VIII.

"It seeks to address the issue of price control through realizing a regime of free and fair competition in the energy

sector," the congressmen said in the bill's explanatory note.

The bill also requires the grantee to implement a lifeline rate for marginalized end-users.

The bill also states that retail rates and charges for the distribution of electricity are to be regulated and be subject to the approval of the Energy Regulatory Commission or its successor.

Under the measure, Bicol Light and Power is also mandated to create employment opportunities.

"No longer should power outages be a bane to society. As such, it is imperative that the service we provide to the people meet such demands and present them with choices accorded to the consumers' own terms," the congressmen said. — **Matthew Carl L. Montecillo**

Jollibee counts 1,186 Philippine stores as it beats closest rivals

JOLLIBEE Foods Corp. (JFC) has recorded 1,186 stores to date and has grown bigger than the combined store count of its two closest competitors to make it the country's top fast-food restaurant, its top official said.

"Now Jollibee here in the Philippines is bigger than its next two competitors, McDonald's and KFC, combined," JFC President and Chief Executive Officer Ernesto Tanmantiong said at a Makati Business Club event last week.

According to Mr. Tanmantiong, the number of Jollibee stores makes the Philippines "the only country where a local brand was able to compete with two global giants."

JFC reported that this year, it opened 180 new stores globally and 50 new stores locally as of the second quarter. Last year, 313 new stores were opened internationally and 85 new stores locally.

"Since 2020, the majority of our store openings have been happening outside the Philippines. And

we intend to continue this through 2022 and beyond as we aim for a 50-50 split between domestic and international sales," Mr. Tanmantiong said.

JFC has also been expanding its international brands overseas such as SmashBurger, Tim Ho Wan, and the Coffee Bean and Tea Leaf.

"I'm happy to share that all these three brands are better today versus pre-pandemic — a positive sign that there's plenty more room to grow," Mr. Tanmantiong said.

In 2020, JFC opened in Shanghai its first Tim Ho Wan store in mainland China, which it followed with store openings in Beijing and Hangzhou.

"Given the potential and the success of our new stores we will be opening 100 Tim Ho Wan stores in China, which is one of our pillar markets," Mr. Tanmantiong said.

Meanwhile, JFC said that Jollibee will continue expanding globally as it sees huge opportunities in the brand. — **Justine Irish D. Tabile**



An icon meets an icon: American boxing great Floyd Mayweather is at Okada Manila, Asia's premier integrated resort.

(L-R) Okada Manila Sr. Manager for Public Affairs, Communications, and Sustainability Donna Patricia Manio, Floyd Mayweather, Atty. Aldwin Alegre, Okada Manila VP for Sales and Marketing, Hospitality and Entertainment Cielo Reboredo.

OUTLIER

Jollibee dips as it commits funds to Tim Ho Wan

JOLLIBEE Food Corp. (JFC) has seen its shares decline after its pledged capital to the private equity fund that owns the Tim Ho Wan brand.

Data from the Philippine Stock Exchange showed a total of 2.95 million shares worth P675.81 million were traded from Sept. 27 to 30, making it the 13th most actively traded stock last week. Trading was suspended on Sept. 26 due to a typhoon.

Shares in Tony Tan Kaktiong's food service company shaved off 3% week on week, finishing at P229 apiece last Friday from its closing of P236 on Sept. 23. Still, the stock has grown by 6.5% since the start of the year.

Timson Securities, Inc. Equity Trader Jervin S. de Celis said investors went on a last-minute "buying spree" after the company announced its capital infusion with Titan Dining LP, despite JFC trading in the red earlier on Friday.

Titan Dining is the private equity fund that owns the Tim Ho Wan brand and company-owned Tim Ho Wan stores.

"JFC traded in the green the day after the news was announced, so I guess, investors snapped up some shares as they bank on the continuous expansion plans of the company in China," Mr. De Celis said in an e-mail.

JFC, through its wholly owned subsidiary Jollibee Worldwide Pte. Ltd. (JWPL), announced in a disclosure on Wednesday its additional capital call commitment to Titan Dining, which is increasing its fund size to \$3350 million from \$250 million.

With the increase, JWPL's 90% participating interest in Titan is set to amount to \$315 million.

The additional fund is intended to be used for the expansion plan and working capital requirements as well as facilitate the completion of other projects of Tim Ho Wan.

Regina Capital Development Corp. Equity Analyst Jemimah Ryla R. Alfonso said in an e-mail that while the move prompted investors to buy shares at the last minute, the announcement did not support the positive momentum seen on Wednesday.

Ms. Alfonso also said that JFC's move would compel investors to see it as a "catalyst to buy the stock."

"The aggressive store network expansion could mean that the food giant could widen [its] international reach. If the firm stays true to its plans, Tim Ho Wan would have a total of 100 restaurants in Mainland China by 2024," she said.

At present, JFC's joint venture with Titan has 11 branches located in China while Tim Ho Wan stores totaled 67 in Asia, of which seven are in the Philippines. — **Mariadel Irish U. Catilogo**

FULL STORY

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